

FARMERS CAN LEARN MUCH BY STUDYING NEIGHBORING FARMS

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Some of The Things That Indicate The Success Or Failure of Any Farm Operations Pointed Out.

Every farmer has an opportunity to learn much about the management of his own farm by the careful study of the operations of neighboring farms. In general most farmers do talk farming to their neighbors, and if they are the right kind of neighbors they get many helpful suggestions. However, it will be worth while for most farmers to go about this matter with a little more patience and system. It is of almost as great importance to study thoroughly poorly managed farms as it is to study well managed farms. Certainly it is essential in every case to keep in mind the controlling factors and to weigh carefully their relative importance in the success or failure of the farm under study.

While one may be a truck farm and another a general farm, the points of judgment would be the same, except that the different points may be given more weight in one case than in the other.

Some of the general things that indicate the success or failure of any farm operations are: The quality of the farm business, the organization of the farm as a whole, the size of the business and the system of marketing. Each point should be studied, beginning first with the quality of the business as it is affected by crop yields, returns per head of livestock, quality of the products and use of labor of men and teams.

QUALITY OF THE FARM BUSINESS

The quality of the farm business is determined by crop yields per acre; live stock returns; the quality of products produced; and utilization of the labor of both men and teams.

Almost any successful farmer is growing one-fourth to one-third more crops per acre than his neighbors, because of the manual treatments of the land such as the use of lime, phosphate, legume crops, stable and green manures. Knowing the treatments in these respects you could predict in Tennessee about what the crop yields would be without seeing the crop or having a record. If the farm is a hill farm one would be fairly safe in predicting good yields if the soil has not been allowed to wash away. An examination of the corn field will show at once whether best use is being made of the soil by a high yielding variety.

In the same way that crop yields influence profits so do returns per head of livestock. The relative importance of the two will depend upon the per cent of farm receipts from each. One may be fairly safe, though not absolutely so, in judging on these points: Whether a purebred sire is in use; whether animals are properly and economically fed, as judged by such points as pasture for hogs, silage for dairy cows, etc.; keeping of records, such as dates of breeding, milk yields, etc.

The returns from both the crops and livestock will be somewhat influenced by the quality of the products, on two apparently similarly managed farms.

The labor of men and teams is the most expensive single item in the cost of the production of crops for market or for feed. Therefore the quality of the business is in direct proportion to the efficiency in use of men and teams. This can be estimated by the number of days of productive labor, an item which will be hard to obtain accurately on most farms. Some teams work one-third of the time, while others work two-thirds or more. The number of acres of tilled crops per man and team to the thoughtful farmer, would indicate the same thing. A man and team should handle about fifty cultivated acres a year or better. The distribution of labor throughout the season can be seen at a glance at the rotation and diversity of enterprises, and their connection one with the other. Another signboard on every farm is the implement shed, which tells something whether the farmer is substituting horse labor for man labor and how much horse power he is able to get with each man. The layout of the farm, such as arrangement of the fields, their distance from the buildings, etc., may be a prime reason for the success of one farm as compared with another, because it controls expense of labor, although it may influence the character of the animals, crop yields, etc., indirectly.

Organization of Farm As A Unit.

The organization of the farm as a whole may be the key to success or failure on any particular farm. Diversification in crops and livestock is not enough. Each must fit into the system. The rotation must fit the livestock and vice versa. It requires no detective to determine this point. The farm should produce the necessary foods, animals and feeds, feeds for use in the home and on the farm. There should be a garden, ample pasture, legume hay, small grain, corn,

etc. for the necessary milk cows, poultry, hogs and a mule colt or two. These things will determine largely whether the best use is being made of the so called products of the farm—things which no farmer can afford to neglect. A point somewhat hard to judge is the per cent of income from any particular cash crop and yet this is one of the best tests of any farm. Crops and livestock should split on about 50-50 basis, there are exceptions to this rule depending upon the farmer, the farm and the market. Another important question to consider in farm organization is: Is too much capital invested in land and not enough left for working equipment, livestock, etc?

Size of Farm Business.

No matter how high the quality of any farm is it must be big enough to return to the farmer a living. The points on which this may be judged are: Capital invested; amount of labor of both men and teams profitably used; number of acres of cultivated land.

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crops and number of productive animals. If your farm is not big enough, rent some of your neighbors land.

System of Marketing.

Every farmer knows that producing a crop is only a part of farming—it must be properly sold. The successful farmer has the bulk of his products ready for sale at the high point of the selling season, for instance hogs in September and March. His products are graded to meet the market demands. He grows such products as require the least expense for marketing for his particular location.

There are other points that could be considered, but a study of a few farms, rightly chosen in the foregoing respects, will make a better farmer of anyone if he applies the lessons learned to his own farm.

DEHORNED CATTLE EASIER HANDLED

Also Insures All of An Equal Chance At The Feed Trough.

Dehorning cattle makes it easier to handle the animals and insures that each one will have a more equal chance at the feed trough, say livestock specialists, Division of Extension. It renders the animals less dangerous to attendants and prevents them from going one another in the feed lot or in transit to market. The practice of dehorning is almost universal so far as high-grade beef steers are concerned. It is often desirable to dehorn the heifers as well as the steers, especially when they are to be fed in troughs for a part of the year.

Calves may be dehorned when a few days old by treating the undeveloped horns with caustic soda or caustic potash, taking care that it does not wash into the eyes.

If the horns are allowed to develop it becomes necessary to cut them off. Clippers made for that purpose may be used on the younger animals. With old cattle a saw is best, as it prevents crushing, and the friction of the blade causes the blood vessels to clot and heal quickly. The work should not be done in warm weather. Where there is danger of flies, a fly repellent should be applied.

MAKE SWEETPOTAT SIRUP.

Work is progressing favorable in connection with the development of the commercial possibilities of the sweet-potato sirup, under the direction of the Bureau of Chemistry of the United States Department of Agriculture. A method of getting a satisfactory sirup from surplus and cull sweet potatoes was worked out some time ago in the laboratories at Washington. A small experimental plant was erected at Fitzgerald, Ga., last spring, where 300 gallons were made and later distributed among sirup manufacturers, confectioners, bakers, wholesale jobbers, extension directors, and others likely to be interested in the project. Certain changes in the process to improve the quality and flavor of the sirup have been made. The plant at Fitzgerald is being equipped with additional machinery to embody these changes and operations are being resumed.

The commercial possibilities of the new sirup have not yet been fully determined, but the local people are very enthusiastic about the product. Sweet-potato sirup is of interest to candy makers, blenders, and bakers, and also appeals to some as a table sirup. If the cost production can be kept sufficiently low, Sweet-potato sirup will probably prevent the waste of large quantities of sweet potatoes which are unsuitable for market.

The Story of Our States

By JONATHAN BRACE
XLII.—IDAHO



THE year 1889 saw the stars in our flag increase from thirty-eight to forty-two, for four states were added to the Union in that year. In 1890 two more states were admitted, the first of which was Idaho, so that during these two years the manufacturer must have been kept busy turning out new flags with the proper number of stars.

Idaho is very mountainous and the name is derived from the Shoshone Indian word meaning "gem of mountains."

The first white explorers were undoubtedly Lewis and Clark on their memorable trip in 1804-5.

Idaho was a part of Oregon territory, which was jointly occupied by British and Americans until the Treaty of 1846 definitely turned over to the United States the country south of the 49th parallel. In 1863 Idaho was organized as a territory, with an area three times the size of the present state, as it included Montana and part of Wyoming. The next year Montana was set off for a territory by itself, and in 1890 Wyoming was organized so that in 1890 when Idaho was admitted as the forty-third state of the Union, its area was reduced to 83,888 square miles. Even so it ranks as the eleventh state in size.

The rapid settlement of Idaho was due to the discovery of gold, the same cause which so rapidly built up the adjacent states. It was in 1862 that gold was found at Coeur d'Alene in the northern part of the state, and miners immediately flocked to the state in great numbers.

There was serious labor trouble in the Coeur d'Alene section in 1892 and again in 1899, when martial law was established until peace between the miners and mine owners was effected.

Idaho is fifth from the end in the list of states according to population, and accordingly has but four presidential electors. But the state is developing rapidly.

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When the average graduate returns home with his sheep-skin in his hand he is prepared to revolutionize the world. But if dad is wise he begins to revolutionizing first.

If you have time to waste confine it to your own. Other people often have something better to do.



CHRISTMAS SEALS.

"Service." That expresses the spirit of the little Christmas seal bearing the double-barred cross and carrying with it a message of cheer and greeting during the Yuletide season.

These little seals were placed on sale in Tennessee on Dec. 1st, under the direction of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, State Federation of Women's Clubs, Tennessee section of the League of Women Voters, and the State Parent-Teachers' Association.

The Christmas seal has a life-saving record of more than 60,000 lives annually, with 700 of these credited to Tennessee. With its cheery little greeting, "Merry Christmas, Healthy New Year," the Christmas seal stands at the front as a nation-wide emblem of mercy.

By the annual sale of these little seals at a penny apiece, lives are prolonged, saved, misery, unhappiness and sickness are prevented in every community in Tennessee and throughout the nation. Every year the public is given an opportunity to share in this great humanitarian effort made possible through the sale of the Christmas seal.

This year's sale promises to exceed all records in Tennessee. Mrs. Clarence Steward, of Chattanooga, President of the State Federation of Women's Clubs, is head of the special committee chosen from the four leading women's organizations in Tennessee to direct this work which is part of the great crusade against one of the most destructive diseases known to man.

THE DEBT OUR ALLIES OWE

Perseverance is often commendable—sometimes it is damnable. Over in England the Right Honorable Reginald McKenna, former cabinet minister, is a very big man. He is a power in the world of finance.

Reggie blew into the domains of Uncle Sammy a few weeks ago, took a whirl around the circle, and talked eloquently of the sacred obligation he conceives to be ours—the cancellation of the monumental debts the allies owe to us.

But he was soon disillusioned. Politely, but firmly, he was told that we of America are a nation and a people who believe in the payment of just debts, even though it be necessary to stretch that payment over a long period of time.

We love our allied friends as we love ourselves, but we have too much respect for their reconstructive ability to place them in the mendicant class.

But if, as Reggie intimates, they will not be able to survive unless we write "Canceled" across their accounts on our national ledger, then we fear they are not worth saving. To make them a present of those billions would be like spreading expensive paint on worm eaten lumber.

For some days now we've been waiting for Reggie's smoke to clear away in order to observe the effect of his eloquence upon the American mind.

But there wasn't any smoke. There was no fire. The star spangled fish didn't even nibble. Reggie, as a match, failed to ignite. As a bait, he was about as effective as a dead worm in the midst of live grasshoppers.

Now we wonder who our dear friends will send over next in their campaign to convert us to their ideas when we are determined to pursue our own way of thinking.

Whoever he may be, we will treat him handsomely, feed him well, and send him home wiser than when he came.

We may never get the billions they owe us, but at least we will always have something coming.

SOME CHRISTMAS POINTERS

Make it a jolly Christmas and don't worry over the bills. They won't come due until next year. That sounds a long way off, whether it is or not.

Browse around town and look into the stores. You may be surprised at some of the things you find. We've seen a lot of 'em, and we know.

We suspect our local merchants are attempting to make London and Paris jealous—or perhaps they know the discriminating taste of our people and are simply trying to meet expectations.

At any rate, the "berries" are there, in the stores, waiting to be picked. And believe us, they are worth picking.

Make the most of Christmas. We don't have another one this year.

HE WHO PLANTS A TREE.

He who plants a tree—
Plants a hope.
Rootlets up thro' fibres blindly grope;
Leaves unfold into horizons free.
So man's life must climb
From the clods of time
Unto heavens sublime.
Canst thou prophesy, thou little tree,
What the glory of thy boughs shall be?

He who plants a tree, —
Plants a joy;
Plants a comfort that will never cloy;
Every day a fresh reality,
Beautiful and strong
To whose shelter throng,
Creatures blithe with song.
If thou couldst but know, thou happy tree,
Of the bliss that shall inhabit thee!

He who plants a tree —
He plants peace.
Under its green curtains jargons cease,
Leaf and zephyr murmur soothingly;
Shadows soft with sleep
Down tired eyelids creep,
Balm of slumber deep,
Never hast thou dreamed, thou blessed tree,
Of the benediction thou shalt be.

He who plants a tree, —
He plants youth;
Vigor won for centuries in sooth;
Life of time, that hints eternity!
Boughs their strength uprear;
New shoots, every year,
On old growths appear.
Thou shalt teach the ages, sturdy tree,
Youth of soul is immortality.

He who plants a tree, —
He plants love;
Tents of coolness spreading out above,
Wayfarers, he may not live to see.
Gifts that grow are best;
Hands that bless are blest:
Plant! life does the rest!
Heaven and earth helps him who plants a tree,
And his work its own reward shall be.

LUCY LARCOM

Keep smiling, but don't contract that silly grin that won't come off.



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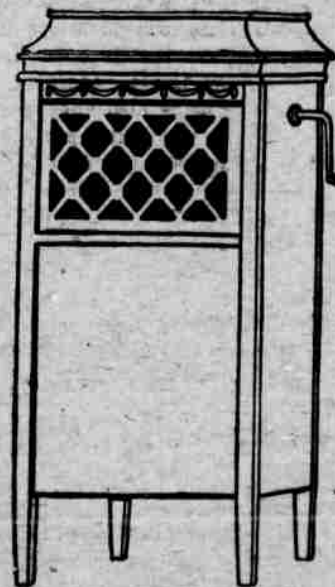
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Men's half soles	75c pair
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Ladies' half soles	55c pair
Children's half soles	20c to 55c pair
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